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LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, dated 27 October 1993, regarding the latest aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijani Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter urgently circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 23 October 1993, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia treacherously violated the cease-fire agreement and launched a mass attack on the south-western districts of the Azerbaijani Republic.

The main offensive of the Armenian army was directed against the Zangelan district bordering on Iran, many kilometres from the Nagorny Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan.

Dozens of heavy armoured vehicles, long-range artillery and several thousand soldiers of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia took part in the attack, which was carried out from three directions - the West, the North and the East.

The main aim of the latest attack by the Armenian army is the annexation of the Zangelan district of the Azerbaijani Republic, which would mean the completion of the occupation of the south-western part of Azerbaijan. In order to achieve this aim, Armenian units have seized an important communications network in the southern part of Azerbaijan in the town of Goradiz and cut the section of the road and railway between Goradiz and Zangelan. At the present time, the Zangelan district of Azerbaijan, with a population of over 60,000, is completely surrounded and cut off from the rest of Azerbaijan.

During the attack, units of the Armenian armed forces have advanced right up to the state frontier between Azerbaijan and Iran and control a 70-kilometre stretch of the frontier.

Dozens of Azerbaijani settlements have been seized. The forces of the Republic of Armenia are carrying out the mass extermination of the civilian population, which, fleeing from persecution, is attempting to swim across the river Arax and reach the Iranian shore. The Azerbaijani Government has no possibility of providing assistance. The Iranian side is taking action to save the drowning people.

Feeling that it can act with impunity, the Republic of Armenia is waging open war against a sovereign State Member of the United Nations, expanding its annexation of Azerbaijani territories, destroying the civilian Azerbaijani population and causing enormous material damage to the economy and the environment. And yet, the Republic of Armenia cynically declares its "desire to resolve the conflict by peaceful means".

It should be emphasized, in particular, that, each time, the Republic of Armenia takes action to seize further Azerbaijani lands on the eve of, or at the very time of, a regular official international meeting on the peaceful settlement of the conflict. It has happened again this time. The Armenian

invasion of the Zangelan district of Azerbaijan was undertaken during an official visit to the region of the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Ms. Margaretta af Ugglas. This shows the true attitude of Armenia towards the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Security Council of the United Nations, the Chairman-in-Office of CSCE, the Chairman of the Minsk Conference of CSCE, the members of the Minsk Group of CSCE and the whole international community to the fact that the Republic of Armenia is carrying out direct aggression against the Azerbaijani Republic, and it has appealed for all necessary measures to be taken against the aggressor.

The invasion of the Zangelan district yet again, following the occupation of the Nagorny Karabakh region, the Lachin, Kelbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, Djebrail and Kubatly districts and part of the territory of the Kazakh district and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, completely exposes the false claims of the Republic of Armenia that it is not involved in the conflict.

The international community must call things by their proper names - aggression must be called aggression - and not postpone taking appropriate measures against the aggressor - the Republic of Armenia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic states that Azerbaijan regards the latest invasion of the Zangelan district by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia as a blatant act of aggression which is aimed at disrupting the negotiating process and which threatens to internationalize the conflict.

Azerbaijan appeals to the international community not to operate a "double standard" but to condemn the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijani Republic. It also urges it to take urgent measures to put a stop to the aggression in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Baku, 27 October 1993